

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A document retrieval method for retrieving desired documents from a document database by using a key word, comprising:

extracting related words relating to an input key word and terms of validity of the related words;

retrieving documents by using the extracted related words as retrieval words; and

selecting documents in the extracted terms of validity from among the retrieved documents.

2. A document retrieval method for retrieving desired documents from a document database by using a key word, comprising:

extracting related words relating to an input key word and terms of validity of the related words; and

retrieving documents by using the extracted related words as retrieval words and using retrieval indexes of the related words that satisfy the terms of validity, included in the retrieval indexes of every unit term.

3. A document retrieval method for retrieving desired documents from a document database by using a key word, comprising:

extracting related words relating to an input key word;

retrieving documents by using the extracted related words as retrieval words; and

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acquiring terms of validity of the related words relating to the input key word, and selecting documents that satisfy the acquired terms of validity from among the retrieved documents.

4. A document retrieval device for retrieving desired documents from a document database by using a key word, comprising:

a time serial related word development processing section for extracting related words relating to an input key word and terms of validity of the related words;

a retrieval processing section for retrieving documents by using the extracted related words as retrieval words; and

a retrieval result selection processing section for selecting documents that satisfy the extracted terms of validity from the retrieved documents.

5. A computer-readable storage medium having a program recorded thereon, the program making a computer function as a document retrieval device for retrieving desired documents from a document database by using a key word, comprising:

extracting related words relating to an input key word and terms of validity of the related words;

retrieving documents by using the extracted related words as retrieval words; and

selecting documents that satisfy the

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extracted terms of validity from among the retrieved documents.

6. A document retrieval program for retrieving desired documents from a document database by using a key word, comprising:

extracting related words relating to an input key word and terms of validity of the related words;

retrieving documents by using the extracted related words as retrieval words; and

selecting documents that satisfy the extracted terms of validity from the retrieved documents.

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